




KENSINGTON WADE



Candidate Information Pack

'The most exciting school in the country'
Sir Anthony Seldon

'A unique and inspirational school'
Ofsted Inspection May 2018



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Introduction to Kensington Wade

Kensington Wade is a new brand of school – it is the first bilingual English/Chinese immersion prep school in Europe and, since opening in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in September 2017, has been recognised internationally, nationally and locally as an outstanding and pioneering educational institution. The school has enjoyed huge success in its first five years of operation.

Background to the School

The idea of a dual language English/Chinese school was first introduced in the USA over 35 years ago. The popularity and reputation of these schools have grown and there are now over 250 such schools in the USA. The idea to open a similar school in the UK was introduced in 2007 when the value of children learning Chinese was first realised. Work began on founding a school that would be a model for other dual language schools to follow. The operating company which owns Kensington Wade is Anglo-Chinese School of London Limited. Its Chairman is Professor Hugo de Burgh, Walt Disney Chair of Media at Schwarzman College of International Relations, Tsinghua University, and Director of the China Media Centre in London. The company's Executive Board also includes its CEO Matt Alexander and Principal Joanna Wallace. Kensington Wade has a local board of governors, made up of professionals from diverse backgrounds including several senior educationalists. The Chair of the Governing Body is David Summerscale, previous Head Master of Westminster School.



Aims and Values

Kensington Wade aims to give children the skills and attributes that they need to be able to live and work in a world where China will play an increasingly important role. The school provides a safe and nurturing environment where children develop a love of learning; habits of independent thought and a spirit of curiosity; bilateral and bicultural skills; personal responsibility; moral integrity; mutual respect and tolerance. In addition to providing an excellent academic start in life, Kensington Wade gives the children three extra advantages:

- Fluency in Mandarin Chinese
- A bilingual mindset
- The ability to transfer comfortably between cultures

The Bilingual Immersive Model

In order to achieve bilingualism and biculturalism, Kensington Wade operates a 50-50 immersive model. Children spend half of their day being taught in English and the other half being taught in Chinese by native Mandarin-speaking teachers.

The Curriculum

The unique and exciting curriculum has been designed to prepare children for entry to leading senior schools, with high expectations of attainment. Pupils learn mathematics, English, Chinese, science, geography, history, religious education, computing, art and design, music, physical education and PSHE. Each subject is delivered in both languages with successive lessons building upon the previous one (whether delivered in Chinese or English) to ensure that the children's knowledge and understanding progresses.

Children are encouraged to think critically and imaginatively and, above all, love learning. Mathematics is based on the Shanghai Mathematics approach. Creativity, critical thinking and high-quality, first-hand learning experiences are considered extremely important parts of Kensington Wade's curriculum.



The Pupils

Kensington Wade serves London's growing population of professionals who work with China and want their children to be bilingually and biculturally fluent. The background of the pupils reflects the international outlook of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. Children may speak one or more languages, but the majority of pupils do not speak Chinese at home.

Leadership Team

Executive and Founding Principal, Mrs Jo Wallace, has over 25 years of experience in independent prep school education. Prior to her appointment in 2017, she was Head of Putney High Junior School, one of the leading prep schools in the country.

Kensington Wade has two Deputy Heads, focusing on the English and Chinese aspects of the curriculum respectively. The School Leadership Team comprises the Head, the two Deputy Heads and the Head of Marketing. The Leadership Team works closely with the Executive Board managing the owning company.



School Structure and Growth

The school opened in September 2017 with one class of 15 Early Years' pupils. A new cohort is added each year. As of September 2022, the school currently has classes from Nursery to Year 5. From September 2023, the school aims to go to two-form entry and will continue to grow to a complete school of children from Nursery to Year 6.

Facilities

Kensington Wade is currently located on Fulham Palace Road and shares a building with Melcombe Primary School. The school plans to relocate to its permanent home at 31 Vernon Street & 6-10 Southcombe Street, W14 0RN in due course subject to an expected grant of planning approval.

Salary and Staff Benefits

Kensington Wade recognises that its greatest resource is its staff and works hard to make sure that every member of staff feels valued. We offer a competitive salary, a private pension scheme, healthcare benefits, free school lunches and excellent opportunities for staff development. Kensington Wade is a member of the Independent Schools' Association.